(c) the details of the works undertaken for improvement and expansion of railway network in Tamil Nadu during the said period; and

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

High Speed of trains on dilapidated rail tracks

†433. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the speed limit of trains on railway tracks should not exceed from 40 to 45 km. per hour but approximately 5000 trains are running at the speed of 90 to 140 km per hour on dilapidated rail tracks which can be a cause of major accident any time; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to prevent occurrence of such kind of accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The permitted speed depends on route classification, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking system, track structure etc.

Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need. For ensuring safety of traffic, track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. Speed restrictions are also imposed for ensuring safety, if the situation so warrants.

Delta fast passenger train accident

434. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed/injured in the Delta Fast Passenger train which is reported to have jumped the rail near Hyderabad;

(b) the precise reasons for the mishaps; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether responsibility has been fixed in the case and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The rail accident of the 415 Repalle Secunderabad passenger on 29.10.05 between the Ramanapet-Valigonda station of the Guntur Division of the South Central Railway, in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh, resulted in 116 deaths and injuries to 104 passengers.

As per the provisional findings contained in the preliminary Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, the accident has occurred due to the train running on a portion of track, in hanging condition, flooded and damaged by breach of bund of Rama Samudram Tank of Golnepalli Village, leading to sudden heading up of water, flowing over the railway formation with intense velocity, scouring the river bed under the bridge and causing its settlement and breach of adjoining formation due to abnormal heavy rainfall in the area.

Steel Production

†435. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of steel produced in the financial year 2003-04 and the quantity of steel likely to be produced in the country by the year 2020 and the expected demand at that time;

(b) the total quantity of iron-ore needed for the required steel production;

(c) the total quantity of iron-ore likely to be available in the country at present; and

(d) the names of the States in the country having iron-ore mines and the number of ensuing years upto which the iron ore would remain available?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The total quantity of the domestic production of finished (carbon) steel during the financial year 2003-04 was 36.957 million metric tones. In the National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.